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D1

a storage [means for storing] unit adapted to store an image signal of the one or more subjects only when the predetermined angle is detected by said first detection [means] unit.

2. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second detection [means for determining] unit adapted to determine whether the image pickup direction is fixed,

wherein said storage [means] unit is structured to store said image signal when the image pickup direction is determined, by said second detection [means] unit, to be fixed.

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3. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a driving [means for changing] unit adapted to change the image pickup direction of said image pickup [means] unit,

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wherein said storage [means] unit stores the image signal when a signal for driving said driving [means] unit is applied.

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~~4.~~ (Amended) An image input device according to claim 1, wherein said storage [means] unit stores the image signal corresponding to the image pickup direction of said predetermined angle when the image pickup [means] unit is switched from a direction for picking up an image of a document to a direction for picking up an image of a person.

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5. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 4, further comprising:  
a control [means for controlling] unit adapted to control said storage [means] unit to output the stored image signal when said image pickup [means] unit is shifted from the document image pickup direction to the person image pickup direction.

6. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 1, wherein said storage [means] unit has at least more

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than two areas for storing an image signal, and said image input device further comprises:

a control [means for] unit that controls switching between said at least more than two storage areas for storing the image signal according to the angle detected by said first detection [means] unit.

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7. (Amended) An image input device for picking up images of a plurality of subjects by switching an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

a mount table for laying a subject thereon;

an image pickup [means for picking] unit  
adapted to pick up an image of said subject and for outputting an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

an image pickup direction switching [means for switching] unit adapted to switch the image pickup direction of said image pickup [means] unit between a direction for picking up an image of said subject laid on said mount table and another direction;

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a detection [means for detecting] unit adapted to detect the image pickup direction of said image pickup [means] unit; and

a storage [means for storing] unit adapted to store the image signal output from said image pickup [means] unit only when the image pickup direction of said image pickup [means] unit detected by said detecting [means] unit is the direction for picking up said subject on said mount table.

D6

8. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 7, further comprising a control [means which] unit that allows the image signal stored in said storage [means] unit to be output when the image pickup direction of said image pickup [means] unit is set at a direction for picking up an image of a subject other than said subject laid on said mount table.

9. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 7, wherein said storage [means] unit has more than two storage areas for storing an image signal, and said image input device further comprises:

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a switch for storing, in said storage [means] unit, the image signal output from said image pickup [means] unit; and

an assigning [means for assigning] unit adapted to assign a number of the image signal stored by operation of said switch.

10. (Not Amended) An image input method for picking up images of a plurality of subjects by switching an image pickup direction and outputting image signals corresponding to picked-up images of the subjects, said image input method comprising the steps of:

detecting an angle of the image pickup direction and determining whether the detected angle is equal to a predetermined angle; and

storing the image signals only when the detected angle is equal to the predetermined angle.

11. (Not Amended) An image input method according to claim 10, wherein said image signals are stored when the image pickup direction is switched from a direction to pick

up an image of a document to a direction to pick up an image of a person.

12. (Not Amended) An image input method according to claim 11, further comprising a controlling step of controlling the stored image signals to be output when the detected angle of the image pickup direction is shifted from an angle corresponding to said document image pickup direction to an angle corresponding to said person image pickup direction.

13. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 1, further comprising an output [means for outputting] unit adapted to output the image signal stored by said storage [means] unit when an angle which is not equal to said predetermined angle is detected by said first detection [means] unit.

SUB E1

14. (Amended) An image input device for picking up images of one subject or more by switching of an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

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an image pickup [means for picking] unit adapted to pick up an image of a subject and for outputting an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

an image pickup direction [switching means for switching] switch adapted to switch the image pickup direction of said image pickup [means] unit;

a first detection [means for detecting] unit adapted to detect an angle of the image pickup direction;

a storage [means for storing] unit adapted to store an image signal of one subject or more when a predetermined angle is detected by said first detection [means] unit; and

a control [means for controlling] unit adapted to control, at an arbitrary timing, output of the image signal stored by said storage [means] unit.

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15. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, further comprising:

a second detection [means for determining] unit adapted to determine whether the image pickup direction is fixed, wherein said storage [means] unit is structured to store said image signal when the image pickup direction is

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determined, by said second detection [means] unit, to be fixed.

16. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, further comprising:

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control  
a driving [means for changing] unit adapted to change the image pickup direction of said image pickup [means] unit, wherein said storage [means] unit stores the image signal when a driving [means] unit signal is applied.

17. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said storage [means] unit stores the image signal corresponding to the image pickup direction of said predetermined angle when the image pickup direction of said image pickup [means] unit is switched from a direction for picking up an image of a document to a direction for picking up an image of a person.

SUB E2 18. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 17, wherein said control [means] unit controls said storage [means] unit to output the stored image signal when



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said image pickup [means] unit is shifted from the document image pickup direction to the person image pickup direction.

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19. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said storage [means] unit has at least more than two areas for storing an image signal, and said image input device further comprises:

a memory control [means for switching] unit adapted to switch between said at least more than two storage areas for storing the image signal according to the angle detected by said first detection [means] unit.

SUB E 3  
20. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said control [means] unit outputs an image signal stored by said [storing means] storage unit repeatedly.

21. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said control [means] unit outputs an image signal stored by said [storing means] storage unit selectively.

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22. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said control [means] unit controls so as to output the image signal when said predetermined angle is not detected by said detecting [means] unit.

23. (Amended) An image input device for picking up images of a plurality of subjects by switching an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

a mount table for laying a subject thereon;

an image pickup [means for picking] unit adapted to pick up an image of said subject and for outputting an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

an image pickup direction [switching means for switching] switch adapted to switch the image pickup direction of said image pickup [means] unit between a direction for picking up an image of said subject laid on said mount table and another direction;

a detection [means for detecting] unit adapted to detect the image pickup direction of said image pickup [means] unit; and

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a storage [means for storing] unit adapted to store the image signal output from said image pickup [means] unit when the image pickup direction of said image pickup [means] unit detected by said detecting [means] unit is the direction for picking up said subject on said mount table; and

a control [means for controlling] unit adapted to control, at an arbitrary timing, output of the image signal stored by said [storing means] storage unit.

24. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 23, [further comprising] wherein the control [means] unit is structured to allow the image signal stored in said storage [means] unit to be output when the image pickup direction of said image is switched from a direction.

25. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 23, wherein said storage [means] unit has more than two storage areas for storing an image signal, and said image input device further comprises:

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a switch for storing, in said storage [means] unit, the image signal output from said image pickup [means] unit; and

an assigning [means for assigning] unit adapted to assign a number to the image signal stored by said switch.

26. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 23, wherein said control [means] unit outputs an image signal stored by said [storing means] storage unit repeatedly.

27. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 23, wherein said control [means] unit outputs an image signal stored by said [storing means] storage unit selectively.

28. (Not Amended) An image input method for picking up images of a plurality of subjects by switching an image pickup direction and outputting image signals corresponding to picked-up images of the subjects, the image input method comprising the steps of:

detecting an angle of the image pickup  
direction; and

determining whether the detected angle is  
equal to a predetermined angle; and

controlling, at an arbitrary timing, output of  
the stored images.

29. (Not Amended) An image input method according  
to claim 28, wherein the image signals are stored when the  
image pickup direction is switched from a direction to pick  
up an image of a document to a direction to pick up an image  
of a person.

30. (Not Amended) An image input method according  
to claim 28, wherein the stored image signals are controlled  
to be output when the detected angle of the image pickup  
direction is shifted from an angle corresponding to the  
document image pickup direction to the person image pickup  
direction.

31. (Not Amended) An image input method according to claim 28, wherein said controlling step outputs an image signal stored in said storing step repeatedly.

32. (Not Amended) An image input method according to claim 28, wherein said controlling step outputs an image signal stored in said storing step selectively.

#### REMARKS

The Abstract was objected to because of "means" language. Applicant submits herewith an amended Abstract, thereby obviating the objection.

Claims 1-32 are now presented for examination. Claims 1-9 and 13-27 have been amended to remove means-plus-function language. Claims 1, 7, 10, 14, 23 and 28 are the independent claims.

Claim 24 was rejected under Section 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claim 24 has been amended to provide clear antecedent basis for all recited terms. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.